

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102005
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S:PSEBASTIAN:BABS

APPROVED BY S/S:PSEBASTIAN

-----042352Z 004684 /70

O 042318Z MAY 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 102005

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE - FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT PARIS 13101 ACTION SECSTATE 4 MAY 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T PARIS 13101

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, VN, US

SUBJECT: US-SRV TALKS: MAY 4 SESSION: FLASH REPORT

REF: PARIS 13027

1. SECOND SESSION OF THIS ROUND PRODUCED NO FURTHER
MOVEMENT ON PART OF VIETNAMESE. THEY NEITHER ACCEPTED
NOR REJECTED OUR PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING RELATIONS AND
EXCHANGE OF EMBASSIES, STATING THEIR VIEW THAT THEY
CONSIDER THE THREE PROBLEMS OF MIAS, US "CONTRIBUTION TO
HEALING WOUNDS OF WAR," AND NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
AS INTERRELATED. THEY ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF

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PAGE 02 STATE 102005

OUR TRADE EMBARGO.

2. US SIDE REITERATED OUR PROPOSAL AND PRESIDENT'S POSI-
TION ON QUESTION OF DIRECT OFFICIAL AID TO VIETNAM,
CITING OTHER MEANS BY WHICH US RESOURCES ALREADY ARE
GOING TO SRV (I.E. VIA PRIVATE AND MULTILATERAL CHANNELS
LATTER EXPRESSLY WITHOUT ANY FURTHER US OBJECTIONS) OR
COULD GO (I.E. THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS ONCE EMBARGO

IS LIFTED). WE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PROGRESS ON MIAS SO FAR AND INDICATED THAT WE CONSIDER CONTINUED MOVEMENT AS INTEGRAL PART OF ANY NEW RELATIONSHIP.

3. PHAN HIEN SAID US AID WOULD STIMULATE FURTHER THE PROCESS OF MIA ACCOUNTING AND AT SOME POINT VIETNAM WILL HAVE BASICALLY FULFILLED ITS RESPONSIBILITY ON MIAS. HE SAID NEXT "PHASE," PROCESS OF US AID, SHOULD NOW BEGIN. THESE WOULD IN TURN STIMULATE 3RD PROCESS, I.E. NORMALIZATION. HE READ INTO RECORD THE "SHOPPING LIST" OF SUGGESTED AID ITEMS ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO WOODCOCK IN HANOI. HIEN SAID SRV HAD NEVER USED THE TERM "WAR REPARATIONS," ONLY "US CONTRIBUTION TO HEALING WAR WOUNDS AND TO POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION."

4. DURING BREAK HOLBROOKE TOLD HIEN THAT NOW WAS TIME TO SEIZE INITIATIVE, IF POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES WERE NOT TO CHANGE AND REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT. HIEN REPLIED HE NEEDED TO BE ABLE TO TELL HANOI ROUGHLY WHAT AID LEVELS WE MIGHT BE WILLING TO AGREE TO AFTER NORMALIZATION, EVEN IF FIGURE IS KEPT SECRET. HOLBROOKE SAID THIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. ON FUTURE MEETINGS, HIEN SAID HE WOULD WANT TO CONSULT WITH PHAM VAN DONG IN MOSCOW FIRST. IT WAS AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

5. FOLLOWING BREAK, HOLBROOKE SUMMARIZED POSITIONS OF EACH SIDE. BOTH HE AND HIEN AGREED THAT EACH SIDE UNDERSTOOD THE OTHER'S POSITION AND THAT THERE WAS UNANIMITY ON THE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF NORMALIZATION.

SECRET

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PAGE 03 STATE 102005

6. DISCUSSION ENSUED OF PRESS HANDLING FOLLOWING MEETING, WITH WORKING OUT OF LANGUAGE FOR POSSIBLE JOINT STATEMENT TO BE MADE AT PRESS CONFERENCE LATER IN AFTERNOON. (SEE SEPTEL.)

7. DURING THIS FINAL EXCHANGE A FEW INTERESTING ITEMS EMERGED. HIEN SHOWED PARTICULAR CONCERN WITH WAY WE WOULD HANDLE PRESS QUERIES ON AID. HE INDICATED THAT A COMPLETELY CLOSED DOOR RESPONSE WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HANOI TO MOVE. IN RESPONSE TO FINAL QUESTION ON WHETHER THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN VIETNAMESE EYES BETWEEN NORMALIZATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HIEN INDICATED THAT "NORMALIZATION" WAS THE PROCESS, ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS THE END RESULT OF THAT PROCESS. HOLBROOKE SAID THE TWO WERE THE SAME TO US.

GAMMON

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CAT-B, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE102005
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PSEBASTIAN:BABS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770003-0183
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770593/aaaadcgn.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4f3f8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 PARIS 13027
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2638413
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-SRV TALKS: MAY 4 SESSION: FLASH REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EAID, VN, US, (HOLBROOKE, RICHARD), (PHAN HIEN)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4f3f8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009